

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 DRC-01 OMB-01 /090 W

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O R 030830Z JUL 74

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2037

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PEKING 1124

FOR INGERSOLL FROM BRUCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CH

SUBJECT: HENRY J. TAYLOR COLUMN ON BRUCE REPORT ON TIBET

REF: STATE 143327

1. UNDER ORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES I WOULD NOT RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT MAKE A STRONG STATEMENT ABOUT NEWS MEDIA REPORTS CONCERNING ME OR THE OPERATIONS OF THIS MISSION. FOR INSTANCE I DID NOT DO SO A FEW MONTHS AGO WHEN THE NOTABLY IRRESPONSIBLE AND FRUSTRATED CHARLES SMITH OF UPI IN HONG KONG WROTE A GOSSIP COLUMN QUOTING MYTHICAL AMBASSADORS AND OTHERS TO THE EFFECT THAT MY WIFE AND I WERE UNHAPPY IN CHINA, AND THAT I WISHED TO RESIGN IMMEDIATELY. THIS WAS MERELY IRRITATING THOUGH EMBARRASSING.

2. HOWEVER, WHEN HENRY J. TAYLOR ON JULY 1 WRITES ABOUT "THE TIBETAN TRAGEDY" FROM WHAT HE ALLEGES IS USLO CHIEF BRUCE'S REPORT TO DOS ON "THE UNREVEALED SITUATION IN OVERRUN TIBET" I BELIEVE EMPHATICALLY THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD ISSUE CATEGORICAL DENIAL OF ANY SUCH REPORT HAVING EVERY BEEN MADE.

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THERE ARE FEW SUBJECTS ABOUT WHICH THE PRC IS MORE SENSITIVE.

3. I HAVE NEVER VISITED TIBET, WHICH IS TOTALLY UNKNOWN TO ME EXCEPT FOR ITS GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION. I HAVE NEVER DISCUSSED IT OR MATTERS REGARDING IT, WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS NOR ANY ONE ELSE SINCE I CAME TO PEKING, NOR HAVE I READ ANY ARTICLES DEALING WITH ITS PROBLEMS.

4. I HAVE TODAY CANVASSED ALL AVAILABLE OFFICERS IN THIS MISSION, AND HAVE BEEN ASSURED THEY ARE AS ABYSMALLY IGNORANT AS I AM OF WHAT CONDITIONS ARE IN TIBET.

5. I THINK THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN ADVISING TAYLOR OF THIS COMPLETE DENIAL, AND ALSO INFORM PRCLO, SINCE IT IS MUCH MORE LIKELY TO BE CALLED TO THEIR ATTENTION IN WASHINGTON THAN TO CHINESE OFFICIAL HERE. I SHALL IF QUERIED HERE REPUDIATE THE ALLEGATION.
BRUCE

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